AZAMARU

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Volume 03 Chapter 7

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Princess Diana(cn)
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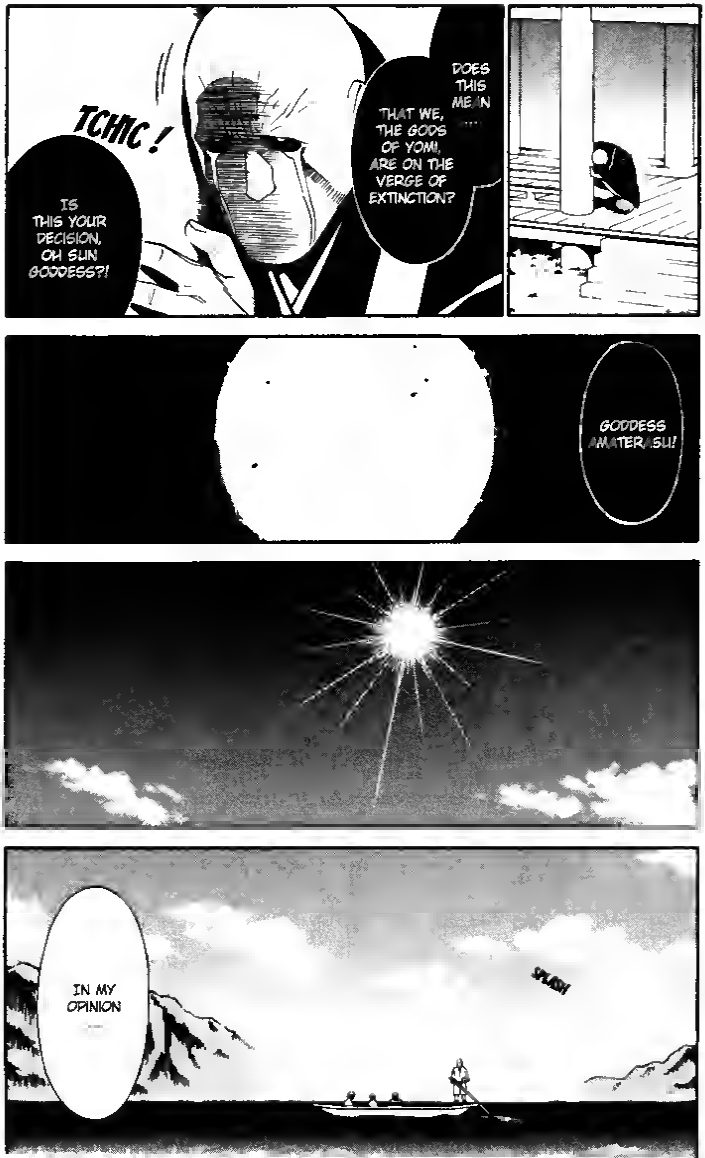
AAAAAAAAAA!
AAAAAAAAAA!
AAAAAAAAAA!
Chapter 19: Dan no ura

WHAAAAAA!
WHAAAHAAAA!

BA
YOSHIKADO IS DEAD!
ONE OF OUR BLOOD BROTHERS HAS JUST DIED!
HE... HE WAS MURDERED BY THAT SNAKE KAGEKIYO!
HIM AGAIN!
PFFF! BUT WASN'T IT YOU WHO SENT HIM TOWARD THAT MAN?
SO DON'T PLAY THE HYPOCRITE!


TCHIC!
IS THIS YOUR DECISION, OH SUN GODDESS?!
DOES THIS MEAN ... THAT WE, THE GODS OF YOMI, ARE ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION?
GODDESS AMATERASU!
IN MY OPINION ...
SPLASH

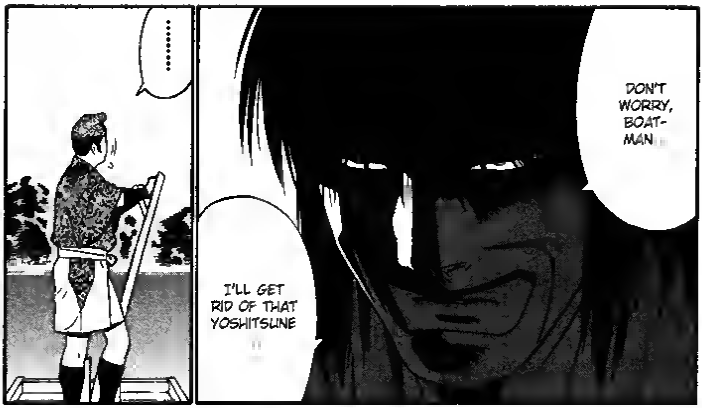
MONK SAIGYOU, BY SUCCEEDING TO REVIVE THE SOUL OF THE DEAD, GAVE LIFE TO YOSHIHIRA MINAMOTO YOSHIHIRA WAS ALSO ABLE TO RESURRECT THE DECEASED AND HAS BECOME A GOD OF YOMI
NATURALLY, HE STARTED REVIVING ALL HIS DECEASED BROTHERS BY ASSIGNING THE SAME POWERS TO THEM
AND YORIMOTO? HE'S REALLY A BROTHER OF YOSHIHIRA, RIGHT?
!
HAAA !
EH? YOU OUCH! MY RIBS!
Ouch
BUT YOSHINAKA IS NOT YOSHIHIRA'S BROTHER!
YORIMOTO IS STILL QUITE ALIVE!
JUST LIKE NORIYORI AND ZENJOU!
BUT IT SEEMS THAT YOSHIHIRA WISHES TO ASSASSINATE AND TURN THEM QUICKLY INTO GODS OF YOMI
HOWEVER THIS MAY BE, YORITOMO KNEW HE DIDN'T HAVE TO FEAR DEATH ANYMORE AND HE TOOK THE LIBERTY OF TRIGGERING THE WAR AGAINST THE HEIJI

HMM, I DON'T KNOW WHO INCITED WHO. BUT ONE THING IS FOR SURE.
SO YOU THINK YORITOMO WAS INCITED BY YOSHIHIRA TO INSTIGATE THE GENPEI WAR?
IT'S BECAUSE OF HIM THAT THE CLANS KILLED EACH OTHER?
WHAT?
BUT..
WITH-OUT THIS GUARANTEE OF ETERNAL LIFE, YORITOMO WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN CAPABLE OF DOING IT! HE WAS TOO WEAK FOR THAT.
IT CAME TO AN END WITH THE NEARLY ENTIRE EX-TERMINATION OF THE HEIJI CLAN
A WAR ERUPTED AND IT'S HERE
AT DAN NO URA
SHAAA
SHAAA
IN SHORT, YOU CAN SAY I'M NOT VERY FOND OF THE HEIJI
TCHK
DURING THE WAR, SEVERAL OF MY BOATMEN WERE FORCED TO ENLIST IN THE HEIJI ARMY. THEY'RE VIR-TUALLY ALL DEAD ..
IS THAT A PRO-BLEM ?
HEY, ARE YOU GUYS FROM THE HEIJI CLAN?

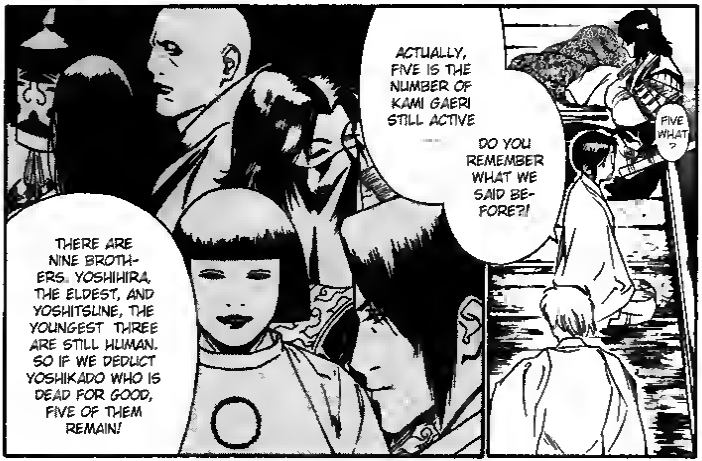
IN THE PAST, BOATMEN WERE NEVER ENLISTED IN ARMIES. THEY WERE NEUTRAL...
THAT'S THE REASON I CHOSE THIS PROFESSION! I'M ANGRY WITH THOSE HEIJI FOR THEIR BETRAYAL OF US!
BUT THE GENJI ARE WORSE!
ESPECIALLY THAT BASTARD YOSHITSUNE!
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HESITATE TO KILL THE BOATMEN IN ORDER TO NEUTRALIZE THE TERRITORIES!
I LOATHE THE HEIJI, BUT EVEN MORE SO THE GENJI!
IF I HAD BEEN 20 YEARS YOUNGER THEN, I
ALL MEN ARE TO DIE ONE DAY OR ANOTHER ...
WH... WHAT ?
ESPECIALLY DURING WARS ...

I FEEL THE SOUL OF MY CLAN...
RESTING IN THE DEPTHS OF THIS SEA...

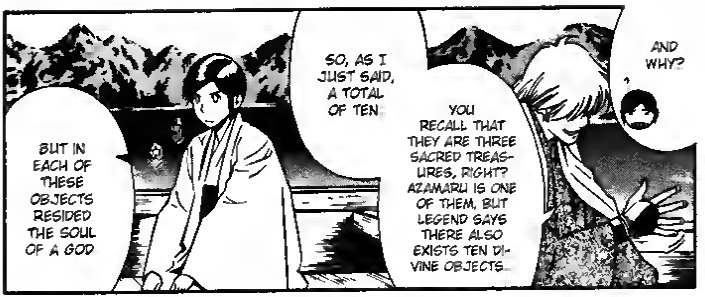
THE SOUL OF THE HEIJI ...
IS LAYING HERE ...

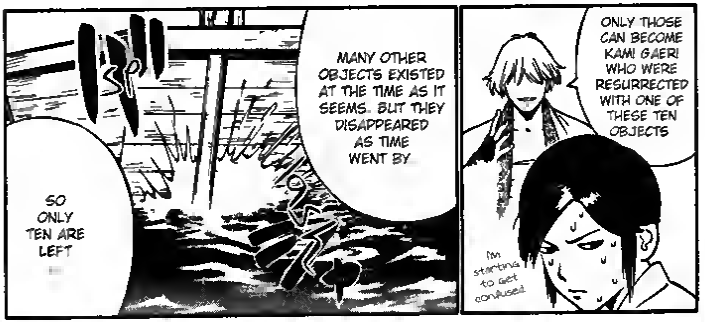

.....
I'LL GET RID OF THAT YOSHITSUNE
DON'T WORRY, BOAT-MAN.

.....
THAT MAKES IT FIVE!
AND OF ALL THE REMAINING MASKS AT THE SAME OCCASION

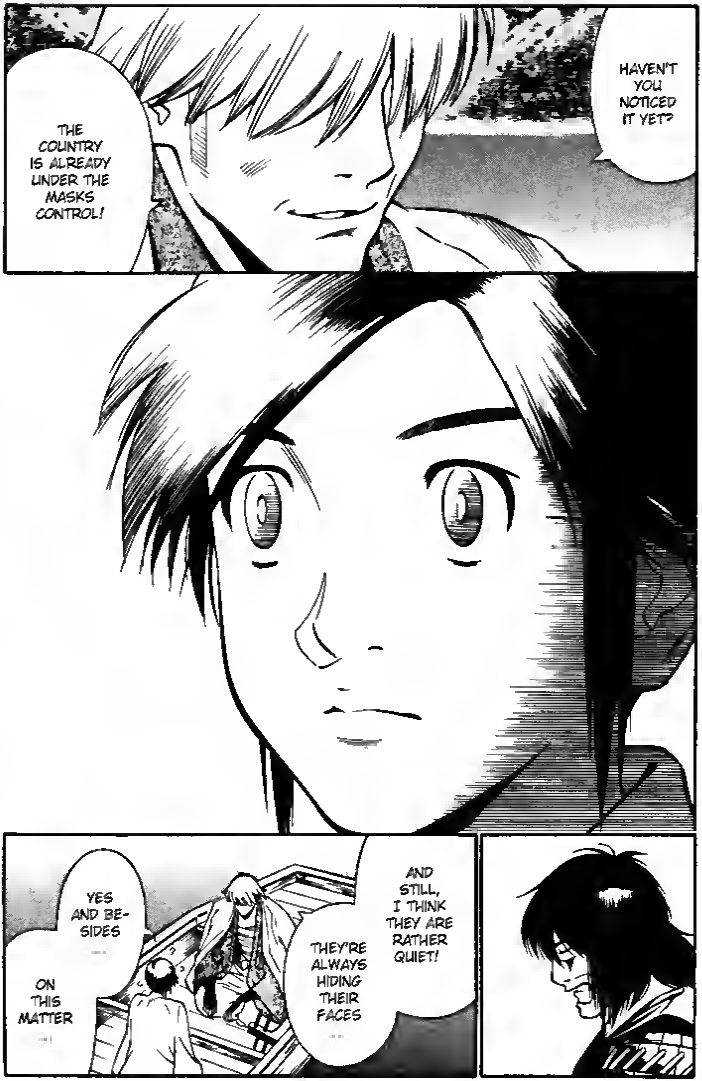

THERE ARE NINE BROTHERS. YOSHIHIRA, THE ELDEST, AND YOSHITSUNE, THE YOUNGEST. THREE ARE STILL HUMAN. SO IF WE DEDUCT YOSHIKADO WHO IS DEAD FOR GOOD, FIVE OF THEM REMAIN!
ACTUALLY, FIVE IS THE NUMBER OF KAMI GAERI STILL ACTIVE
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT WE SAID BEFORE?!
FIVE WHAT?

SO ONLY FOUR THEN!
IN SHORT, IF WE SUCCEED IN ELIMINATING THE FIVE REMAINING BROTHERS, WE'LL NEVER HEAR FROM THOSE MASKED ZOMBIES AGAIN.
AND ONLY THE KAMI GAERI HAVE THE POWER TO RESSURECT THE DEAD.
YOU NEVER ASKED
That's why he didn't seem surprised when he saw the kami Gaeri die.
EH? BUT YOU NEVER MENTIONED IT TO ME!
I REMEMBER THAT I SLAUGHTERED A BROTHER OF YORITOMO A VERY LONG TIME AGO
BECAUSE OF THE BLOOD TIES...
BLOOD TIES?
I'D DO SO IF I WERE IN HIS SHOES!
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY DOESN'T HE TRY TO RAISE THE AMOUNT OF KAMI GAERI?
BUT ANYWAY, ONLY TEN PEOPLE CAN BECOME KAMI GAERI
THEREFORE, THEY DON'T WANT TO GIVE THEIR POWERS TO JUST ANYBODY.
YES LET'S SAY THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES BELONGING TO A FAMILY OF DIVINE BLOOD


AND WHY?
YOU RECALL THAT THEY ARE THREE SACRED TREASURES, RIGHT? AZAMARU IS ONE OF THEM, BUT LEGEND SAYS THERE ALSO EXISTS TEN DIVINE OBJECTS.
SO, AS I JUST SAID, A TOTAL OF TEN.
BUT IN EACH OF THESE OBJECTS RESIDED THE SOUL OF A GOD


ONLY THOSE CAN BECOME KAMI GAERI WHO WERE RESURRECTED WITH ONE OF THESE TEN OBJECTS
I'm starting to get confused
MANY OTHER OBJECTS EXISTED AT THE TIME AS IT SEEMS. BUT THEY DISAPPEARED AS TIME WENT BY
SO ONLY TEN ARE LEFT

TOMOE, ARE YOU LISTENING TO WHAT I'M SAYING?
DO YOU BELIEVE THEY WANTED TO RETURN ONE DAY AND HOLD THE COUNTRY UNDER THEIR CONTROL?
WHAT DID THEY INTEND TO DO BY COMING BACK FROM THE LAND OF YOMI?
WHY DOES THE SOUL OF THESE GODS STAY WITHIN THESE OBJECTS INSTEAD OF HEADING TO THE PARADISE OF BUDDHA?
BUT THEN ....


HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED IT YET?
THE COUNTRY IS ALREADY UNDER THE MASKS CONTROL!
AND STILL, I THINK THEY ARE RATHER QUIET!
THEY'RE ALWAYS HIDING THEIR FACES
YES AND BESIDES
ON THIS MATTER

IF THEY ARE ALREADY THE MASTERS OF THIS COUNTRY
WHY ARE THEY STILL HIDING THEIR FACES?
STRANGELY ENOUGH, THOSE MONSTERS SOMETIMES SHOW POLITENESS!
THEY ARE HIDING THEIR FACES OUT OF DEFERENCE TO THE PERSON WHO MADE THE RESSURECTION OF THEM POSSIBLE. OUT OF RESPECT IF YOU PREFER.
BUT
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING AMISS SOMEWHERE!
AH, REALLY ?
YES! BECAUSE
MONK SAIGYOU WHO IS AT THE ORIGIN OF ALL THIS...
...DIED LAST YEAR!

HMM, THAT WOULD MEAN ...
...ANOTHER HUMAN EXISTS WHO IS INVOLVED WITH SAIGYOU'S EXPERI-MENTS?
SOON YOU'LL HAVE COME TO THE END OF YOUR JOURNEY, RIGHT?
IENAGA
WELL, WE CAN SAY THAT YOU TWO ARE QUITE WELL VERSED ON THE SUB-JECT!
.....

YEAH, I'M AFRAID SO...
WHAT?

!
OH? THERE'RE LOTS OF PEOPLE ON THE EMBANK-MENT
DO YOU BELIEVE IT IS THE MASK CLAN?!
MAY-BE THEY WISHED TO BE FOUND ....
I DIDN'T THINK THEY WERE THAT STUPID. TRAV-ELLING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. IT'S MADNESS!
MAY IT BE BY DAY OR BY NIGHT, IT'S THE SAME FOR US...
ANYHOW, THEY HAVE NO REAL CHOICE. THERE ARE SO LITTLE PLACES TO DOCK.

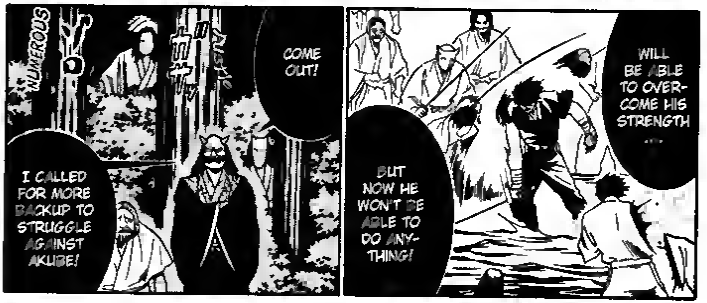
I GUESSED AS MUCH I KNEW THEY WOULD SET AN AMBUSH FOR US
TCHIC
TCHIC
IT'S SOMETIMES BETTER TO TRAVEL BY DAY. AT LEAST YOU CAN CLEARLY SPOT YOUR OPPONENTS
BOAT-MAN!
THOSE ARE GENJI
IF YOU WANT, CONSIDER THAT I'M FIGHTING TO AVENGE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ...
PFF, AKUBE! HE'S REALLY FIDGETY
SPLASH!
AH! GEEZ!
SPLASH !
Swish Swish
SPLASH

Splash
Splash
HEY! MY LUTE DOESN'T LIKE WATER MUCH! SO I'LL JOIN YOU A BIT LATER!
An restless the sea is too cold for an injured person like me!
.....
RHAAAA
DIE!!!

ARGH
!

RHAAA!
AAAAAA!

YOSHITSUNE WAS RIGHT...
IT'S NOT WITH A NUMBER OF 10 OR 15 THAT WE...
FORTUNATELY, WE HAD BEEN WARNED.
HMM...
THEY REALLY DESERVE THEIR REPUTATION...


NUMEROUS
COME OUT!
I CALLED FOR MORE BACKUP TO STRUGGLE AGAINST AKUBEI!
WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME HIS STRENGTH...
BUT NOW HE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING!

NUMEROUS
YES...
WE ARE 10 TIMES LARGER THAN EXPECTED!
NUMEROUS

BOAT-MEN! LET'S GO BACK?
OOPS!
WHAAA!
AH!
WH
WAR IS JUST A MATTER OF NUMBERS!
ONE HUNDRED ENEMIES? THEN ONE THOUSAND MEN TO EXTERMINATE THEM!
TEN ENEMIES? THEN YOU NEED ONE HUNDRED MEN!
YOU HAVE AN ENEMY? THEN ANTICIPATE TEN MEN!

AH! WHO WAS TALKING?
YES. TH, IT'S IT! AND IF YOU HAVE TEN THOUSAND ENEMIES...
AND IF WE HAVE 1000 ENEMIES? HOW MANY MEN DO I NEED? TEN-THOUSAND?
FIUUUUUU!!!
Are you serious?
AH! AND ABOUT TIME!

TAGADA
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

YOW!!
YOW!!
YOW!!
YOW!!
YOW!!
BUT...
THEY ARE HEIJI?!
THE ARMY OF SURVI-VORS?
NO...
LOOK CLOSE-LY!
THEY ARE ALSO GENJI...

EH?
STOMP
STOMP

YAAAAA!

A HUMAN ARMY ...

End of the third volume of Azamaru.
To be continued in Volume 4...